



# RGSQ Bulletin

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## From the President

Family visits to Canberra and Maitland have caused me to be absent for some interesting and concentrated activity within the Society. At the same time I have extended my own geographical appreciation by travelling on several lesser used routes between the two main destinations.

During my absence of a fortnight, the lecture on 4 March was presented by Paul Tacon. His topic "Caves, cognition, animals and artists: an illustrated journey through time, space, rock art and the human mind" attracted an audience of 61 Members and 6 guests. This was received with enthusiasm and provided a remarkable extension of knowledge to those present.

The agenda for the Council meeting on the following Tuesday was long and an extended meeting was required to attend to the business. I would like to thank Prof Jamie Shulmeister for chairing the meeting in my absence.

On Thursday 13 March, the many Society volunteers completed the mailing of the Australian Geography

Competition Question Papers for about 70,000 students. By the time the Bulletin is being received, students, including some in Hong Kong and some Australian External Territories, will have completed their Competition response.

During March the RGSQ and the Geography Teachers Association of Queensland submitted a joint statement to the latest Australian Government's Curriculum Review. The submission took the opportunity to express concern that Geography does not continue as a compulsory subject beyond Year 8 and yet History is compulsory. The submission expressed support for the content and definitions of subject matter in the curriculum. This brief submission highlights that the two organisations had contributed significant effort to the formulation of the curriculum over the last few years. The sterling efforts of our Administration Officer, Kath Berg, in participating in and coordinating this National Curriculum contribution are recognised by our Society.

As a result of my touring while absent from Brisbane, I record something of some very simple "geographical observations".

Firstly, having chosen to leave the main highways to visit lesser known areas, it was pleasing to find the high standard of roads which service rural communities. Road maps which indicated secondary roads, and even one which was interpreted as, "probably 4WD only", turned out to be excellent for travel and mostly bitumen. Although an occasional section of gravel road occurs, the real bonus is the lack of heavy traffic. It is impressive to

consider the progress in providing this standard of road infrastructure over the last few decades. Observation of road building techniques at the many "Roadwork Ahead" locations provides an explanation for these achievements and highlights the expenditure involved.

My second geo-fact involves parking of motor vehicles. This is a personal, observation not a controlled study. I am sure the subject is being addressed by appropriate experts.

Canberra today is a fine city. The infrastructure and culture of a great place to live are well established – with significant good planning and cost.

On a visit to Old Parliament House to view the Democracy Display, a major problem was encountered. There are major car parks; however, all car parking spaces were filled except for just a few reserved for departmental use. Thousands of cars were parked. After driving around for some three-quarters of an hour seeking a spot, the proposed visit was abandoned.

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Canberra is a city of cars. The roads provide for this. But the vast majority must choose to drive their car to work in spite of a comprehensive public transport bus service.

This “infestation of cars” is not only an issue in Canberra. It is becoming increasingly obvious that more and more cars are parked in the streets of Brisbane. More and more units and even houses have more cars per unit than parking spaces provided on the premises. The result is streets which are often difficult to drive along. In the case of our Society it is noticeable that street parking in Milton has become less available over the last few years.

Parking is just an indicator of the larger issue of transport infrastructure, gridlock on our roads and associated pollution.

David Carstens

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## Lecture Antarctica Ecotourism

The April lecture will feature a presentation by Dr John Kirkwood, *Visiting Antarctica: Is Ecotourism Compatible with Wilderness Preservation?*

Dr Kirkwood’s career has taken him from Antarctica to the tropics, and has involved research on animals ranging from microscopic crustaceans to whales. He has worked as a Marine Biologist with the Australian Antarctic Division in the 1980’s, then completed a PhD on the ecology of an Antarctic fjord. Dr Kirkwood has since worked as a Lecturer at Griffith University, a Fisheries Scientist with the Queensland Government and a Senior Lecturer at The University of Queensland. He also travels to Antarctica and the Arctic on a regular basis as an Expedition Leader/Naturalist with Aurora Expeditions. He is a keen collaborator on the UQ Dugong program, and is adept at catching dugongs and then sexing them using his patented ‘6-pack’ method.

## Port of Brisbane and Fort Lytton Outing

### Fully Booked

When: Monday April 7th.

Time: 10.45 am, assemble on the ground floor of the Port Office.

The Port bus tour commences at 11am so it’s best to assemble on the ground floor of the Port office by 10.45. Lots of parking is available. Our tour of Fort Lytton is set to begin at 1.30pm, which should allow time for lunch and the short drive from the Port of Brisbane.

Included is a bus tour (about 1 hour) of the Port of Brisbane, approx one and a half hour guided walking tour of Fort Lytton and a final cuppa at the Fort to complete the tour. I recommend lunch (at own expense) at the Port of Brisbane restaurant which provides good quality food (including sandwiches and good coffee) and views across the river and bay.

The Port is the arrival point for most of Queensland’s imports including all imported motor vehicles for Queensland and northern and north-western New South Wales.

Fort Lytton is a historic area dating back to the 19th century and has been used recently as a location for the films ‘The Railway Man’ and the forthcoming ‘Unbroken’ directed by Angelina Jolie.

Those who have booked and not yet paid, please pay at the RGSQ office by 1st April.

John McWatters

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### Volunteers Please

We need to call on our generous members again for help with the school geography competition – to unpack and sort Answer Sheets during the first two weeks of April.

The next main working bee is scheduled for Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 May, to pack and send back the results and certificates.

Please ring Bernard in the office (3368 2066) if you can help – or see him at the April meeting.

A big thank you to the members who packed and mailed out the competition Question packs in March:

Bob Abnett; Mary Coomer; Roger Grimley; James Hansen; Audery Johnston; John and Mary Nowill; Judy Rechner; Chris Spriggs; Sue Stevens-Hoare.

Thank you also to the others who volunteered but were not required on the Thursday.

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## St Helena Outing

When: Sunday 18 May

Meet: 9:45am

Where: William Gunn Jetty, Wyvernleigh Close, Manly Boat Harbour

RSVP: Friday 2 May. Bookings and payment to be made with the RGSQ office.

Pursuing our 2014 watery theme, we will visit St Helena Island in Moreton Bay.

We’ll board the vessel Cat- O’Nine-Tails at the William Gunn Jetty, Wyvernleigh Close, Manly Boat Harbour at 9.45am for the cruise to the Island where there will be a guided tour of the convict ruins and stories about the convict settlement there. A picnic lunch is included in the cost, and coffee, bottled water etc is available for purchase on board. The vessel will return to Manly Boat Harbour at 3pm.

Come along and join us for this fascinating insight into the early history of white settlement in the Moreton Bay region.

Children are very welcome on this Sunday outing.

Cost is \$70 per adult, \$42 per child (ages 4-14 years).

More details: Brian McGrath, [brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com](mailto:brian.mcgrath@bigpond.com), or 33785960.

## Cape York 4WD Trek

When: 14 Jul – 10 Aug 2014  
Book and Pay by May 23, 2014

Take in the extraordinary beauty, history and geography of Cape York with fellow RGSQ members. The trek will start/finish at Mt Carbine and take 16 days exploring up to the Cape and 10 days back. If time does not permit, some participants may shorten the return journey.

The trip up will include exploring Cooktown, Laura, Weipa and then the Jardine River area of Bamaga to take a 'selfie' photo at the very northern tip of Australia. There will be an optional day tour of the Thursday Island group. The down trek will include Lockhart River, Port Stewart and Rinyirri NP. The itinerary may change according to conditions at the time.

While it is possible to visit some of the Cape York area by 2WD vehicle, the trek will be travelling to some areas where a 4WD is necessary, however, we will not be undertaking hazardous or dangerous 4WD activities.

There will be a booking fee of \$50 to cover RGSQ administrative costs and participants must be current RGSQ members. All on-route costs will be made individually. Some fees are cash only, for example, the

Jardine River Ferry which is currently \$130 per vehicle. Further details, itinerary and booking forms will be made available to those registering interest. Numbers will be limited – register your interest now with the office [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au).

If you are a like-to-be-a-passenger or have room in your vehicle for an extra person and their kit let the office know [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au), and they may be able to put you in touch with potential partners. It will be up to individual drivers and passengers as to whether satisfactory travelling arrangements can be negotiated.

If you have recently travelled to the Cape, even if you are not intending to participate in this trek, we would appreciate any information about your journey. Please email your contact details to the RGSQ office [info@rgsq.org.au](mailto:info@rgsq.org.au)

*Russell Saunders*

## World Wide Maps shop closes

A favourite of some members, World Wide Maps has now moved Online. Printed Topographic maps, Great Walks Maps and other maps from all over the world can be viewed and purchased at: [www.worldwidemaps.com.au](http://www.worldwidemaps.com.au)

## Hong Kong

When: November 2014

Introduction and Information Session 16<sup>th</sup> April. All interested welcome.

Society Members will be visiting Hong Kong in November this year. We recently had acceptance to our request to meet with Members of the Royal Geographical Society - Hong Kong.

Any members who would like to have input into the itinerary are welcome to meet at Gregory House on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April starting at 3:00pm. No RSVP required for meeting.

## New Members

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

Barry Badcock; Susan Beale and Jon Percival; Alan and Lynette Jones; Mike Piccolo; Eric Strohschon; Helen Sutherland.

We hope your association with your new Society is long and mutually enjoyable.

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## 2014 Membership Renewal

Membership fees for 2014 were due on 1 January. According to our records, your membership has been paid up to the year shown in the top right corner of your mailing label. (For life members this space is blank.) Please contact the office if you think there may be a mistake in our records. If you have not yet paid, please circle the appropriate fee and send this in with your payment. The mailing label on the back of this sheet gives your name and address. Please correct it if there are any errors. You may like to consider making a tax-deductible donation for the Society's environmental and educational work at the same time. Thank you

Ordinary	\$40.00
“ Pensioner rate	\$25.00
Household	\$55.00
“ Pensioner rate	\$35.00
Student/Junior	\$25.00
Schools/Non-profit organizations	\$55.00
Corporate	\$150.00
Life	\$400.00
Donation	\$.....
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$.....</b>

I enclose a cheque/money order payable to RGSQ; or, please debit my  VISA  Mastercard

Card no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder name: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I'd like my Bulletin delivered by email. My email address is:

## Northwestern United States

When: 8 - 28 September

20 days/18 nights

Booking and deposit by 2 May 2014

Would you like to do something a little different to the regular tours of the Northwestern USA? Do you like visiting new places with a group of likeminded travellers with an interest in Geography, National Parks and History?

Come with The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland in September 2014 to Washington, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Colorado and Utah ... land of Diversity, National Parks, History, Wide open spaces and Frontier Excitement.



The Itinerary: Seattle, Mt St Helens, Spokane, Perce Nez Historic Park, National Bison Range – Glacier National Park, Kalispell, Helena, Yellowstone, Cody, Grand Teton Park, Little Big Horn, Sheridan, Rapid City, Cheyenne, Denver, Rocky Mountain National Park, Vail, Moab, Cedar City, and finishing in Salt Lake City.

Tour price: \$8,795 per person Brisbane to Brisbane – share twin accommodation. Prices include breakfasts and dinners.

Bookings can only be accepted on receipt of the Tour Booking Form and Deposit. For further information, or to be emailed a detailed itinerary and booking form phone Mel at Travel Concepts on Mobile 0413 756 797 or for further information phone Leo Scanlan on 3343 4398. Visit [www.rgsq.org.au](http://www.rgsq.org.au) for further details.



# RGSQ Bulletin

April 2014

**Volunteer Days**, 21, 22, 23 May

**Lecture Meeting**, Tues 1 Apr 7:30pm  
Speaker: John Kirkwood  
Subject: Visiting Antarctica: Is Ecotourism Compatible with Wilderness Preservation?

**Activity**, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10:45am  
What: Port of Brisbane and Fort Lytton

**Geography Competition**, Mon 24 March - Wed 2 Apr

**Lecture Meeting**, Tues 6 May 7:30pm  
Speaker: Panel  
Subject: Pungalina Scientific Study

**Trips and Treks Bookings**, 2 May for St Helena Outing, and 2 May for Northwest USA Trip.

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